



# The Thoreau Society Bulletin

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## The Two Tarns: A Note on "The Fall of the House of Usher" and Chapter II of *Walden*

Steven Carter

Often as not, distinctions between the two American "Romanticisms" are drawn in general rather than specific terms. This is not to say that scholars have failed to pin down the significant differences between the dark Romanticism of Melville, Hawthorne, and Poe, and the upbeat or buoyant Romanticism of Thoreau, Emerson, and Whitman. The point is that when it comes to these myriad-minded nineteenth-century American authors, commentators can be too general, but never too precise.

Poe and Thoreau are usually perceived to lie at opposite ends of the broad spectrum of American Romanticism(s). Their manifold differences (literally) speak volumes, and yet, if we choose to focus on a single image shared by both, we may gain further insight into precisely what distinguishes the world of *Walden* from the House of Poe.<sup>1</sup> One mutual and mutually defining image is the tarn.

At the beginning of "The Fall of the House of Usher," the narrator describes the setting in recursive terms:

I reined my horse to the precipitous brink of a black and lucid tarn that lay in unruffled lustre by the dwelling, and gazed down—but with a shudder even more thrilling than before—upon the remodelled and inverted images of the gray sedge, and the ghastly tree-stems, and the vacant and eye-like windows. (975)

The narcissistic reflection of the House of Usher in the tarn (narcissistic because the anthropomorphized house with its "eye-like windows" is Roderick Usher) is reprised at story's end:

While I gazed, this fissure rapidly widened—there came a fierce breath of the whirlwind—the entire orb of the satellite burst at once upon my sight—my brain reeled as I saw the mighty walls rushing asunder—there was a long tumultuous shouting sound like the voice of a thousand waters—and the deep and dark tarn by my feet closed sullenly and silently over the fragments of the 'House of Usher.' (987)

Here Poe springs one of his characteristic traps on the reader by bringing the story to double closure. The mirroring tarn swallows up the House of Usher and "The House of Usher," implicating the reader ("You, who so well know the nature of my soul"<sup>2</sup>) in Roderick's narcissism.

In Chapter II of *Walden*, Thoreau adapts the same image of the tarn to very different purposes:

For the first week, whenever I looked out on the pond it impressed me like a tarn high up on the side of a mountain, its bottom far above the surface of other lakes . . . and the clear portion of the air above it being shallow and dark-

ened by clouds, the water, full of light and reflections, becomes a lower heaven itself so much the more important. (1614)

Thus we have two dark tarns, two "inverted images" of nature—but two very different interpretations of the self's relationship to the Other.

Poe's Roderick Usher is utterly devoid of any authentic sense of otherness, human or natural. For Thoreau, on the other hand, the "tarn" reflects the Other,

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something utterly beyond the reach of his ego. The “inverted images” of nature cause him to turn, not inward, as in the case of Poe’s narrator and Roderick Usher, but outward, toward

some of the peaks of the still bluer  
and more distant mountains ranges  
in the northwest, those true-blue  
coins from heaven’s own mint.  
(1615)

Thoreau adds that “some portion of the village” is also reflected in the tarn of *Walden* (1615). This latter detail is also significant when contrasted with the reflections in Poe’s tarn, for Thoreau is not entirely isolated from his fellow man after all.

In *Walden*, in short, the Other is inclusive of other selves (the villagers, some of whom wander out to Walden to visit Thoreau) and the clouds and mountains of nature—the “Not Me,” in Emerson’s felicitous phrase. In Poe’s world, the Other is a quasi-Other—a narcissistic reflection of the self. Thus, even as Thoreau finds renewed life in the baptismal font of Walden, the House of Usher—both the physical dwelling and the in-bred family—is destined for a watery grave. For Poe and Thoreau, respectively, the quintessential Romantic topos for death and for resurrection is the tarn.

#### Works Cited

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#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> The phrase “The House of Poe” was coined by Richard Wilbur, one of Poe’s ablest critics.
- <sup>2</sup> The line is spoken by Montresor in “The Cask of Amontillado,” another story that implicates the reader in the protagonist’s dark psychology.

## “In Wildness” To Wilderness—and Now Back Again?

Ed Zahniser

My father, Howard Zahniser (1906-1964), was the primary author of and chief lobbyist for the legislation in the United States that became the Wilderness Act of 1964. He was a devotee of Thoreau’s writing and thinking for most of his adult life. He also served as president of the Thoreau Society in 1956, the year the first Wilderness bills were introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate. Perhaps to show he was not single-minded about wilderness and wildness in Thoreau’s writing, “Zahnie,” as my father was known, invited as the keynote speaker to the Thoreau Society annual meeting not a wilderness buff, but the Indian Ambassador to the United States. That apparent twist underscores how much Zahnie’s immersion in Thoreau’s writings helped shape the Wilderness Act, which now protects more than one hundred million acres of wildlands on federal public lands.

In his dogged wilderness advocacy Zahniser followed Thoreau’s lead and carefully positioned our human need for wilderness *within* the context of a holistic culture. Although wilderness clearly has biocentric values that are now ascendant in its advocacy, the Wilderness Act positions our human need for the continued healthy existence of areas of wilderness not

at the peripheries of civilization, but as part and parcel of a healthy civilization. Thoreau had redefined progress in the face of an industrial “railroad” culture. Working in that redefining tradition on the coat-tails of Robert Marshall, Aldo Leopold, and Benton MacKaye, through his role in the Wilderness Act, my father helped redefine Progress in the post-industrial “automobile” age.

This cultural valuation of wilderness also was the direct influence of Thoreau’s prescription for preserving wildness within the polis. My father’s thinking about this aspect of wilderness preservation was deeply influenced by Benton MacKaye. Also a close student of Thoreau’s thought, MacKaye is known as the founder of the Appalachian Trail concept. He served as president of the Wilderness Society in the 1940s and 1950s. He used to tell a story from his youth of meeting a man who had gone fishing with Thoreau. MacKaye was a stentorian raconteur from Thoreau’s part of Massachusetts. Not to strain connectivity, but he and Thoreau were graduated from Harvard University in the same century!

With his fellow founder of the Wilderness Society, Aldo Leopold, MacKaye shared the intellectual leadership of the Wilderness Society following the death of its energetic organizer, Robert

Marshall, in 1939. On Leopold’s death in the late 1940s, the mantle of wilderness philosophy largely fell to MacKaye, and Olaus J. Murie picked up the ecological and field-biology leadership that Leopold had brought to the Wilderness Society’s organizing years. These were my father’s mentors—he was a charter member of the Wilderness Society from 1935 and went to work for the fledgling organization in 1945. MacKaye’s influence on Zahniser, and particularly his influence as a Thoreauvian, would be immense.

To appreciate Thoreau’s influence on MacKaye’s thinking and on the American wilderness preservation movement generally, it is necessary to distinguish MacKaye’s concept of the Appalachian Trail from how the Trail eventually played out. MacKaye is generally credited as the founder of regional planning. He conceived the Trail as a wilderness belt that would keep wilderness alive and within ready reach of the developing eastern megalopolis that he foresaw even in the early 1920s. (He also prophesied, in 1930, the Interstate Highway System of the 1950s, characterizing it as “the townless highway,” a metropolis-to-metropolis, long-distance highway plotted without regard to hamlets and smaller towns that otherwise would have been in its route.)



## President's Column

At this time of the year I suffer from a kind of split personality. Here in Santa Barbara, my outdoor orchids have been blooming for a month now, and the roses have set buds. I walk past jasmine and wisteria vines that are heavy with flowers, and blossoms on the orange and lemon trees in my yard began to open last week. But part of my heart is in New England, and I ask myself what Thoreau would have made of a place where the seasons are so gentle that they're marked by what blooms rather than what dies.

I'm sure he would have delighted in measuring the progress of March by watching one variety of *Ceanothus* overtake another in the foothills, or noting the unfurling of the first California poppy in a sea of lupine. But in the end, I think he needed to live through the dead of winter—a season as contradictory and complex as his own tough Yankee soul, a time to experience the virtue of pure cold even as he affirmed the “slumbering subterranean fire in nature which never goes out”—in order to earn the spring. So I salute all of you who have earned your spring by braving winter: at least this year those of us in California had lots of rain to overcome!

In my previous column, I answered several questions that members had raised with me about the management of the Society. In this column I want to provide some information about the contributions of the people involved in directing the organization, the members of the Board of Directors. Their names are listed on the last page of the Bulletin. Board members are essential to any active organization: what follows is a description of some of the Thoreau Society Board's current efforts.

The Board meets in person twice a year, once at the Annual Gathering and once in December or January; each member bears all of his or her own travel expenses. Because the Society has become very active on a number of fronts, each of the two Board meetings now takes up about twenty hours of discussion over three days. During the rest of the year we keep in touch with one another and the staff primarily by phone and electronic mail. Tom Harris, the Society's Managing Director, has begun collecting information about the value of the time, services, and

cash that Board members contribute: it appears that the total is well over \$100,000 per year.

All members of the Board serve on committees that help Tom carry out the Society's operations and services. In general, we have two categories of committees: those that deal with the internal operations of the Society and those that see to member services. As is the case with most organizations, an Executive Committee consults frequently about all of the work of the Board and about issues of concern to the Society; our Executive Committee consists of the President, the Secretary (Joel Myerson), the Treasurer (Ron Hoag), and the Chair of the Finance Committee (Bob Galvin).

### Internal Operations

As you can see from the “Statement of Support and Revenue and Expenses” in the Summer 1997 Bulletin, the Society now manages the flow of a substantial amount of money: the Shop at Walden is a healthy operation. Bob Galvin, an attorney with the Boston law firm of Davis, Malm, and D'Agostine, has contributed hundreds of hours consulting with Tom and Karen Kashian, our bookkeeper, and with Mike Long, the Shop manager, to analyze the Shop's condition, and to project monthly and annual totals. Bob also works with Tom and Karen on managing other Society expenses.

Wes Mott, a professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, is chair of the Shop Committee; he and Joe Gilbert, a professor of history at Salisbury State University, advise Mike on merchandise, and on management.

Ken Basile heads the Board's Membership Development Committee. He is the director of the art museum at Salisbury State University, and his advice about low-cost ways to get the message of the Society to more people has helped to increase the membership by several hundred in the last several years.

By the terms of our collection lease with the Walden Woods Project, a Standing Committee represents the Board in dealing with issues involving the Society's collections. Joel Myerson, professor of American Literature at the

Elizabeth Witherell

University of South Carolina, chairs the Standing Committee.

### Member Services

Member services include the Society's publications, the Annual Gathering, and various lecture series. Dan Shealy, Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, chairs the Annual Gathering Committee, and Joe Gilbert was responsible for last year's expanded program at the Annual Gathering. Joe arranged for canoe trips, mountain climbs, bird walks, member-sponsored sessions, and David Brower's presentation at the First Parish. We look for another exciting program this summer.

As Chair of the Publications Committee, Wes Mott has contributed uncounted hours setting up the Thoreau Society Imprint series with Houghton Mifflin: the volumes in this series are collections of quotations from Thoreau on topics of particular current interest. Wes negotiated the contract with Houghton Mifflin and selected the editors, and the first three volumes in the series will be available later this year. Look for Martin Bickman's *Uncommon Schools: Thoreau on Education*, Parker Huber's *Elevating Ourselves: Thoreau on Mountains*, and Laura Dassow Walls, *Material Faith: Thoreau on Science*.

In another major publication effort, Joel Myerson has made arrangements for a Thoreau Society Reprint series that will make selected classics texts about Thoreau available again. *A Thoreau Profile*, by Walter Harding and Milton Meltzer, and Roland Robbins's *Discovery at Walden* are the first two titles in this series.

Brad Dean, former Board member and current Director of the Media Center at the Thoreau Institute, is the editor of the *Thoreau Society Bulletin*. For over fifty years, the Bulletin has been our major means of communication with members, although it will soon be supplemented by services available on our Web site. Brad and Tom work together on rounding up contributors, polishing prose, suggesting layout, and arranging for printing, folding, and mailing.



That the Appalachian Trail became a predominantly recreational footpath was an accident of history. World War II brought to a halt the original thrust of assembling the pieces of such a wilderness-belt trail near the developing East Coast megalopolitan complex. After the war the project was adopted by enthusiastic recreational-trail buffs. From the start they pieced together the complex, geographically linear structure of volunteerism that still makes the Trail work fifty years later. As almost everyone knows, today the Trail threads through substantial areas of both designated and de facto wilderness—on federal lands protected by the Wilderness Act.

Perhaps in fulfillment of MacKaye's own dream for the Trail, these mountain wildlands could even now provide the wilderness backbone from which wildness could finger out into the eastern megalopolis by connecting with extant historical canals, rails-to-trails conversion projects, and other corridors of protected natural areas or greenways. Imagine how Thoreau might delight in that playing out of his disciple MacKaye's early twentieth-century dreaming!

MacKaye's essay "The Wilderness of Civilization," published in his regional-planning classic *The New Exploration* (1928), constitutes an elaboration of Thoreau's prescription for wildness within the polis. It is also implicit homage to Thoreau's astounding perception in "Walking" that "in Wildness is the preservation of the World." Thoreau's original concept and MacKaye's extrapolations of it may still prove prophetic; we now have on federal public lands a ten-million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System whose areas range in size from a six-acre island to multi-million-acre wildland expanses. And the definition of wilderness that Zahnle crafted for the federal Wilderness Act was adopted by New York State in the 1970s for its system of state wilderness areas in the Adirondacks and Catskills, which today protect more than one million acres. We also have both federal and state systems of wild, scenic, and recreational rivers.

Are we not ready to explore restoring wildness at the very physical, urban core of human culture, as Thoreau recommended? Historically the Wilderness Act can be seen as part of the Great Society Program of the 1960s. The bulk of that program simply

enacted an agenda of social-legislation launched in the 1950s by Congressman (later Senator and later still Vice President under Lyndon B. Johnson) Hubert Horatio Humphrey. Thoreau can be said to have influenced profoundly this perception of the role of wildness and wilderness within a healthy society. That my father invited the Indian ambassador and not a known wilderness buff to a Thoreau Society meeting was indeed in keeping with his appreciation of Thoreau's far-reaching critique of the human condition.

For many years now scholars have recognized and appreciated Thoreau as not only a thinker, but an intensely craft-conscious writer. In Zahnle's wilderness advocacy and crafting of the language of the Wilderness Act, he attended to this side of Thoreau. The great conservationist David Brower, who was then executive director of the Sierra Club, was Zahnle's chief co-strategist throughout the campaign for the Wilderness Act. Brower, a former editor with the University of California Press, eulogized Zahnle as "the constant advocate" for wilderness preservation. He might also have pointed out that my father's word-smithing of the legislation could have been inspired by Thoreau's persistent crafting of *Walden*.

Early in his wilderness-bill-campaign years Zahnle came to know J. Lyndon Shanley and his work on *The Making of Walden*. As Zahnle took the various wilderness bills through sixty-six separate drafts over nine years of public and Congressional hearings, he may have been reminded of Shanley's study of Thoreau's multiple draftings of *Walden* over a similar time-span. Today the Wilderness Act is well-known for its readability and exactitude. The "definition" and "statement-of-purpose" portions of the Wilderness Act are regarded by many as among the most beautifully written modern legislative documents. Some believe that the clarity and precision of its wording is one of the principal reasons it has been so little amended in its more than thirty-year history.

Zahnle's role as book-review editor for the monthly *Nature Magazine* for more than twenty-five years enabled him to hone his talent in natural-history writing. Besides Thoreau and Emerson, his heroes were William Blake and Dante Alighieri. He had oversize pockets sewn into his suit jackets so that he could carry their books

and other books he enjoyed. (*The Book of Job* was another favorite.)

Custom-pocketed suits were perfect garb for a lobbyist who was constantly handing out pro-wilderness reprints from the *Congressional Record*, newspapers, and magazines. As a youngster I could barely lift my father's fully stocked coats, which were fabric filing cabinets. Both reprints and books—Thoreau's books, chiefly—were what he called his wilderness "propaganda."

By the early 1950s Zahnle had brought the Wilderness Society's magazine *The Living Wilderness* to the defense of Walden Pond and Walden Woods against developers in those areas. When Roland Wells Robbins published his account of finding the Thoreau house site at Walden, my father arranged lecture events for Robbins in Washington, D.C. Robbins stayed at our Washington-area home during his promotional tour, and our family car delivered Robbins and his books to his lectures in that area.

By the mid-1950s most of my father's Thoreauvian activities were either prompted by or worked out with Walter Harding, long-time secretary of the Thoreau Society. My father had tremendous personal and professional admiration for Harding, and for his effectiveness in his dual role as respected scholar and tireless promoter of all things Thoreauvian. Harding's personal influence on Zahnle was tremendous, and Harding's cooperation on behalf of the Thoreau Society in support of national conservation causes and issues gratified Zahnle enormously. Harding also visited our house in Washington, and I think he enjoyed working with my father to edge Thoreau into the political life of the nation.

Harding as Thoreauvian in Washington was one of many examples of the tremendous influence Henry D. Thoreau had on my father and the nine-year campaign to create a National Wilderness Preservation System.

Will you be a reader,  
a student merely,  
or a seer?

Walden



# The Wide Spreading Jones Family: Thoreau, President Garfield and Mark Hopkins Among Its Famous Members—A Further Lifting of the Veil Only Slightly Raised by Frank Sanborn in His *Life of the Concord Philosopher*

Edmund Hudson

*[Editor's Note: Continued from the previous bulletin, this article is reprinted from the Boston Evening Transcript, 27 June 1917. We are very grateful to the Concord Free Public Library, and particularly to Ms. Leslie Wilson, Curator of Special Collections at the library, for bringing this article to our attention and for providing multiple photocopies of the article.]*

## The Sergeant, Sedgwick and Hopkins Connections

The most brilliant member of the whole Jones tribe, if we may judge her by the illustrious character of her immediate descendants, was Colonel Elisha Jones's sister, Abigail, born Sept. 14, 1694. She became on May 21, 1719, when her brother, Elisha, was nine years old, the second wife of Colonel Ephraim Williams of Newton, who removed in 1787, with his brother-in-law, the third Josiah Jones, and others, to Stockbridge, in order to assist Rev. Mr. Sergeant in civilizing and Christianizing the Stockbridge Indians. Colonel Williams was a lawyer, as well as a military man, and became a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Hampshire County. The first of the five children of this marriage was Abigail Williams, born in 1721, who at the age of eighteen became the wife of Rev. Mr. Sergeant, by whom she had three children—Erastus Sergeant, a noted physician of Stockbridge; Electa Sergeant, who married the eminent lawyer, Mark Hopkins of Great Barrington, born Sept. 16, 1739, in Waterbury, Conn., the leader of the Berkshire County bar, colonel of the First Massachusetts Infantry, and grandfather of President Mark Hopkins of Williams College; John Sergeant, a missionary to the Stockbridge Indians in western New York, Rev. Mr. Sergeant having died, his widow married General Joseph Dwight of Great Barrington, by whom she had two children: (1) Mary Dwight, who married Hon. Theodore Sedgwick, and was the mother of three very distinguished lawyers, Theodore, Henry and Charles Sedgwick, and several daughters, one of whom was the celebrated Catherine M. Sedgwick; (2) Henry Dwight,

father of Henry Williams Dwight, who represented his district in Congress. The second child of Ephraim and Abigail Williams was Joseph Williams, a distinguished officer in the French War, during which he was, in 1755, severely wounded. The second daughter, Judith, married Rev. Enoch Thayer of Ware, Mass., and was the mother of Enoch Ware who became a lawyer. Elizabeth Williams, the third daughter, married Rev. Stephen West of Stockbridge. The youngest of the five was Elijah, born Nov. 15, 1732, who won fame as a colonel of militia and high sheriff. Obviously, Mr. Thoreau did not have any reason to be ashamed of his Berkshire County relatives, but there is no evidence in Mr. Sanborn's volume that these family relationships were ever known to anybody in Concord during Thoreau's lifetime.

## The Joneses of Stockbridge

The third Josiah Jones, who accompanied his brother-in-law, Colonel Williams, to Stockbridge in 1739, had married Anna Brown of Weston in 1724. Six children were born to them before they left Weston, three sons and three daughters. The husbands of the latter were Oliver Warren of Sheffield, — Kellogg of Egremont and Josiah Warren. The eldest son was named for his father and was, therefore, the fourth Josiah. He is known as "Captain Josiah Jones of Stockbridge." He married Mabel Woodbridge of West Springfield, and the result of that marriage was nine children and forty-eight grandchildren. Most of these married and had children, and an incomplete list made seventy years ago of the great-grandchildren of Captain Josiah of Stockbridge exceeded 150. The younger brother of this prolific Stockbridge Josiah was Elijah Jones, born in 1742 in Stockbridge. He served as orderly sergeant and commissary during the War of the Revolution and died of pulmonary consumption in 1782, as a result of that service. He had seven children and many grandchildren.

## Eight Lunenburg Cousins

Colonel Elisha Jones's brother, William, moved from Weston to the newer town of Lunenburg, after marrying Sarah Locke of Woburn, granddaughter of Deacon William Locke, the founder of another of the great American families, of whom it has been said that he was the ancestor of more college presidents and other eminent educators than any other of the first settlers of America. "The Book of the Lockes" has been for three-quarters of a century one of the most famous of American genealogical works. The number of living persons who are able to include Deacon Locke with Deacon Lewis Jones as their first American ancestors is very large. William and Sarah Locke Jones added eight to the number of Mary Jones's cousins. The following marriages are recorded in this family: Sarah, born, 1735, and Joseph Foster of Sullivan, N. H.; Abigail, born 1740, and John Foskett of Westminster; Hannah, twin sister of Enos, born 1742, and Benjamin Barrett of Ashby; Silence and Thaddeus Smith of Ashby, and later of Troy, N. H.; William, oldest son, born 1737, and Sarah Stone of Groton; Josiah, born 1741, and Susanna Bennett of Ashby. Enos Jones, the fourth child of William Jones, born in 1742, was one of the first settlers of Ashburnham. He answered the call to Lexington, April 19, 1775, and was at the head of the town government during the darkest years of the Revolutionary struggle. He married Mary Whitmore and had several children. One of his grandchildren, daughter of Edmund Jones of Ashburnham, was the late Mrs. Caroline Jones Hudson of Templeton, who was born in 1808 and died in 1911, having entered her 104th year. William Jones was an educated man of high character, and a noted land-surveyor. In 1760, he was called to Nova Scotia to survey a large tract of land. While returning to Boston by ship, the vessel was wrecked in Massachusetts Bay during a severe winter storm, Jan. 26, 1761, and he was drowned on that day.



## Notes and Queries

The Thoreau Society has new contact information:

Web site: [www.walden.org](http://www.walden.org)

Office

Phone: (781) 259-4750

Fax: (781) 259-4760

E-mail: [ThoreauSociety@walden.org](mailto:ThoreauSociety@walden.org)

Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond

Phone: (781) 259-4770

Fax: (978) 287-5620

E-mail: [Shop@walden.org](mailto:Shop@walden.org)

To commemorate the anniversary of Thoreau's death on 6 May 1862, the Society sponsored a walk to Thoreau's grave on Saturday, 2 May. Thirty people attended and several read their favorite Thoreau passages. Board member and organizer of the event Robert Galvin read the last paragraph from Emerson's eulogy. Also in attendance were board members Ron Boško, John Mack, and Joel Myerson. Bosco and Myerson spoke briefly at the Emerson family plot and answered questions about the Concord authors.

Chad Lowe, an actor in the television drama *ER*, is reported to have proposed to his bride-to-be, Hilary Swank, while sitting on the shore of Walden Pond. The couple was married near Los Angeles on 18 September 1997.

In an interview with Tom Hayden in the *Boston Globe Magazine* (15 February 1998), the sixties anti-war and civil-rights activist, now a California state senator, labeled himself politically as "a late Jeffersonian, perhaps even a Thoreau." The interview does not go into any more detail about Hayden's connection with Thoreau.

Joe Moldenhauer notes that quotations from "Ktaadn," *Walden*, and the journal, plus many references to Thoreau's doctrine of the simplified life, appear in Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild* (New York: Villard, 1996; rpt. Anchor Books, 1997). Krakauer, a Seattle-based alpinist and writer, examines the wayfaring career of Christopher McCandless, who died at age 24 in August 1992, while trying to lead a Thoreauvian existence on the Stampede Trail, just north of Denali Park and Mount McKinley, Alaska. Two years before, upon graduating from Emory University, he had

given a \$24,000 savings account to charity and had taken to the road and trail under an assumed name. He abandoned his old car in the Arizona desert, burned his cash, canoed down the Colorado into Mexico and the Gulf of California, made friends in little farming communities and hippie encampments from California to South Dakota, and occasionally took jobs, perhaps as much for congenial company as for replenishing his grubstake. He was drawn to the asceticism of Tolstoy and to Thoreau's vision of an intimate bond with the non-human world. He kept a journal, wrote philosophical letters to his friends (though none to his parents), and carried a little library of paperback books, including *Walden*; and he tried to subsist on a diet of rice and what he could glean from the land. His death was due to starvation.

Janie Paul, a painter and printmaker who grew up in Concord, is working on a portfolio of prints which combine images and text from *A Week On the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. The portfolio will contain seven silicone intaglio prints, a title page, and a colophon. Each print is 5" x 20" and is made up of handwritten text and photographic, drawn, and hand-painted imagery. The photographs of such subjects as herons, water-lilies, and Fair Haven Island, all taken on the Sudbury and Concord rivers, are combined with hand-painted "chine-colle" papers; the text is often written over close-up details of rocks, grass, and water; and drawing is also integrated into both of these elements. She will be producing a small edition of these portfolios this summer and will be at the annual gathering in July to show them. For more information call her in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at (734) 663-40057 or write to 1104 Prospect, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You can see examples of some of the prints at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design Website, [www.umich.edu/weebteammm/soad](http://www.umich.edu/weebteammm/soad).

Amazon.com, the new on-line bookstore, has a Bookmatcher feature that asks the virtual shopper, "Do you love Poe, but loathe Thoreau? Live for histories, but yawn at mysteries?"

Society members who browse the World

Wide Web might be interested to know that Harvard botanist and Society member Ray Angelo has published his "Botanical Index to Thoreau's Journal" at <http://www.herbaria.harvard.edu/~rangel/BotIndex/WebIntro.html>. On the same site Angelo publishes John Dolan's essay, "The Language of Concord's Fields," which served as an introduction to the *Thoreau Quarterly* publication of the index; Angelo's own preface to the paper version of his index; his essay "Thoreau as Botanist"; his suggestions on the "Use and Construction of the Index"; his notes to the index; a botanical bibliography; and his corrections to the paper version of his index. At the end of his Web Page, Angelo writes, "With the advent of web documents it is now possible for an author's work truly to be a living work in progress. In view of this the author welcomes any additional corrections that have been detected by users of this Index. It is most convenient for such corrections to be transmitted by e-mail to the author at [[rangel@oeb.harvard.edu](mailto:rangel@oeb.harvard.edu)]. It is hoped that in this new incarnation the Index will continue to serve as a fruitful resource for Thoreau enthusiasts and botanists alike."

On the brochure for Leslie College's individualized major for Environmental Studies appears this quote from Thoreau's journal: "The question is not what you look at—but how you look and what you see."

Dr. William Hutchinson, professor of theatre at Rhode Island College, performed *Henry David Thoreau—A Dramatic Portrayal* at the Mathewson Street United Methodist Church in Providence, Rhode Island, on Sunday, 8 March. The script for the monodrama was written by Kris Hall. Dr. Hutchinson has taught acting, directing, and history of the theatre for the past thirty-five years. He added Thoreau to his repertoire in the 1980s.

Sterling F. Delano is writing a biography of the utopian Brook Farm (1841-47) community and seeks any relevant information—beyond the usual sources—about any aspect of the community. He is particularly interested in background on individual members, especially the less cel-

*continued on next page*



# Calendar

## May

### Massachusetts

**6 Wednesday** 7:30 p.m.

"Thoreau's 'Broken Task' Reconstructed" Bradley P. Dean. 7:30 p.m. The talk will trace the change of Thoreau's interests in the years after Walden, will describe the speaker's editorial work in reconstructing Thoreau's late manuscripts, and will explore the significance of what Emerson called Thoreau's "broken task"—the large projects that were left unpublished at his death. Sponsored by the Thoreau Society, Concord Museum, and Thoreau Institute. Free and open to the public.

**30 Saturday** 9:30 a.m.

"Exploring Concord Inside & Out: The Town of Emerson and Thoreau," a walking tour. Concord Museum. Reservations required. For information call (978) 369-9763.

**31 Sunday** 3:00 p.m.

"In the Footsteps of Thoreau: 25 Historic and Nature Walks on Cape Cod" An illustrated lecture and book signing with

author Adam Gamble as he follows in Thoreau's footsteps. Books will be available for sale and signing. Concord Museum. Light refreshments served. \$5/person; Concord Museum members/Free. Reservations required. For information call (978) 369-9763.

## June

### Massachusetts

**27 Saturday** 9:30 a.m.

"Exploring Concord Inside & Out: The Town of Emerson and Thoreau," a walking tour. Concord Museum. Registration required. For information call (978) 369-9763.

## July

### Massachusetts

**9-12 Thursday-Sunday**

Thoreau Society Annual Gathering. Mark your calendar and set aside these four days of events celebrating Thoreau's life, writings, and travels. Activities will include lectures, panel discussions, workshops, canoeing, hiking, social gatherings, and the

Thoreau Society's annual business meeting. Join other Thoreauvians from across the country and around the world. See details in this bulletin, page 8.

## August

### Maine/Massachusetts

**13-16 Thursday-Sunday**

Katahdin Excursion. Plans are being made for an excursion into Baxter State Park for three days and nights of camping and hiking near Mt. Katahdin. Registration information is enclosed with this bulletin.

Ignorance and bungling with love are better than wisdom and skill without. There may be courtesy, there may be even temper, and wit, and talent, and sparkling conversation, there may be good-will even,—and yet the humanest and divinest faculties pine for exercise.

*A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*

#### Notes & Queries, from page 6

ibrated ones. He may be contacted at the Department of English, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085, and by telephone at (610) 519-4654.

Jim Dawson of Maryland sent us the following anecdote reprinted from Frederick Woodward Skiff's *Adventures in Americana* (Metropolitan Press, 1935): "I stood beside the graves of Hawthorne, Emerson and Thoreau. Then we drove to Emerson's home. En route, my driver told me that he was born and raised in Concord and had been a school-mate of Thoreau. He told of Thoreau's 'oddity' as he termed it.

One Sunday morning near church time people were proceeding on their way to attend services. My informant was on the street with his mother. Suddenly he saw Henry walking in the middle of the street, headed where he would have to pass groups of church-going people, and carrying a long split rail across one shoulder.

Someone asked Thoreau why he was walking through the street in this manner. 'Just to make fools ask questions,' came Thoreau's reply, as without a pause he proceeded onward down the street."

Southwest Airlines has run a full-page ad using Thoreau's quote, "Simplify, simplify," followed by a quote from Herb Kelleher, President and CEO, "Ticketless, ticketless." The advertisement promotes their ticketless travel and claims that it will make your next flight "Effortless, effortless."

The Discovery Channel will repeat its program on *Walden* as a part of its "Great Books" Series on 2 June.

In accumulating property for ourselves or our posterity, in founding a family or a state, or acquiring fame even, we are mortal; but in dealing with truth we are immortal, and need fear no change nor accident.

*Walden*

#### President's Column, from page 3

Ron Hoag, professor of English at East Carolina University is the editor of *The Concord Saunterer*, which has grown to be the major journal in Thoreau studies. Ron solicits and reviews contributions to the *Saunterer*, sells advertising, and arranges for printing and distribution for what this year was a 200-page issue.

The Board members' substantial contributions, only some of which are described above, are essential to carrying out the Society's mission to stimulate interest in and foster education about the life, works, and philosophy of Thoreau. The Board is truly devoted to the Society and to the ideals of Henry Thoreau: not even one of our marathon meetings can damage the good humor, the good will, and the dedication of this group!



# Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

Thomas S. Harris



Garman, James C., et al., "'This Great Wild Tract': Henry David Thoreau, Native Americans, and the Archaeology of Estabrook Woods," *Historical Archaeology* 31(1997): 59-80.

Levy, David. "Dark Sky from Walden Pond." Chapter in *More Things in Heaven and Earth*. Wolfville, Nova Scotia: The Wombat Press. 1997. Pp. 92-102.

Roorda, Randall. "Going Out, Going In: Narrative Logic in Thoreau's 'Ktaadn.'" Chapter in *Dramas of Solitude: Narratives of Retreat in American Nature Writing*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998.

Thoreau, Henry D. *Walden*. Review: *New Statesman*, 5 December 1997, p. 57.

Van Anglen, Keven P. *Simplify, Simplify*

and Other Quotations from Henry David Thoreau. Review: *Études Anglaises* 51, no. 1 (1998): 114-115.

This bibliography was compiled with contributions from S. Ells, K. Merrill, and R. Winslow III.

If I have missed any books, articles, or other relevant material, please let me know. Send any additions or corrections to Thomas S. Harris, Thoreau Society, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004 U.S.A. (e-mail: Tom.Harris@walden.org). Whenever possible, please include a copy of the book, article, or other publication so that we can include it in the Thoreau Society's collection at the Thoreau Institute.

## 1998 Annual Gathering

Max Oelschlaeger will deliver the keynote address at this year's annual gathering in Concord. Oelschlaeger is a professor of philosophy at the University of North Texas. His recent books include *The Idea of Wilderness* (Yale, 1991), *Caring for Creation* (Yale, 1994), *Postmodern Environmental Ethics* (SUNY Press, 1995), and *Texas Land Ethics* (UT Press, 1997).

The gathering will take place from Thursday, 9 July, through Sunday, 12 July. The gathering will begin Thursday morning with excursions to Mt. Wachusett and Fruitlands Museum, and on the Sudbury River. Thursday evening, Ken Pederson will perform piano selections from his CD "Walden." Friday's activities will include nature walks, canoeing, workshops, and walking tours of Concord. Peter Alden, renowned naturalist and Concord resident, will present a lecture/slide show on Concord as a naturalist's Mecca.

The annual business meeting will take place Saturday morning at the First Parish Church in Concord.

Registration materials have been mailed separately. If you have not received your mailing, please contact the Society office.

There is no rule more invariable than that we are paid for our suspicions by finding what we suspected. By our narrowness and prejudices we say, I will have so much and such of you, my Friend, no more. Perhaps there are none charitable, none disinterested, none wise, noble, and heroic enough, for a true and lasting Friendship.

*A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*

The Thoreau Society Bulletin is published quarterly by the Thoreau Society.

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The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an international not-for-profit organization founded in 1941 to stimulate interest in and foster education about the life, works, and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau.

To fulfill its mission, the Society:

- 🌳 supports programming for the Thoreau Institute, in partnership with the Walden Woods Project;
- 🌳 sponsors various Thoreau-related excursions and events throughout the year;
- 🌳 owns and operates the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, a visitor's center with a bookstore and gift shop located at the Walden Pond State Reservation;
- 🌳 holds a four-day annual gathering each July in Concord, Massachusetts; and
- 🌳 publishes the *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, *Concord Saunterer*, and other Thoreau-related material.

Membership in the Society includes subscriptions to its two publications, *The Concord Saunterer* (published each autumn) and the *Thoreau Society Bulletin* (published quarterly). Society members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased from the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond and advance notice about Society programs, including the annual gathering. Contact the Thoreau Society administrative offices in Lincoln, Massachusetts, for membership information (address below).

### Thoreau Society Directory

Communications relating to *The Concord Saunterer* should be addressed to Ronald Wesley Hoag, Thoreau Society, Inc., Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, U.S.A.; tel: (919) 328-6580; fax: (919) 328-4889; e-mail: enhoag@ecuvm.cis.ecu.edu.

Inquiries about merchandise (including books and mail-order items) should be directed to Mike Long, Manager, Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, 915 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742-4511, U.S.A.; tel: (781) 259-4770; fax: (978) 287-5620; e-mail: Shop@walden.org.

All other inquiries and communications should be directed to the Thoreau Society, Inc., 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004, U.S.A.; tel: (781) 259-4750; fax: (781) 259-4760; e-mail: ThoreauSociety@walden.org.

*Thoreau Society Bulletin*

**Editor**, Bradley P. Dean

**Associate Editor**, Thomas S. Harris